WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for monitoring, from a remote location, operation of a head-end in an information distribution system, the method comprising:

receiving status relating to one or more operations performed at the head-end; and

forwarding at least a subset of the received status to one or more remote devices.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving indications of possible error conditions relating to the one or more operations; and

forwarding one or more alert messages to the one or more remote devices in response to receiving the indications.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

polling the head-end for status relating to the one or more operations.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving identities of the one or more remote devices designated to receive status.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

receiving an indication of capabilities of each remote device designated to receive status, and

wherein status are forwarded to each of the one or more remote devices in conformance with the indicated capabilities.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the indicated capabilities for each remote device is indicated as text, graphics, or a combination thereof.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

receiving an indication of a particular reporting level for each remote device designated to receive status, and

wherein status are forwarded to each of the one or more remote devices in conformance with the indicated reporting level.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a response message from a particular remote device; and

forwarding the response message to the head-end.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the received message from the particular remote device includes a command to adjust at least one parameter of a particular operation performed at the head-end.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the received status include status relating to encoding operations performed at the head-end.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the status relating to the encoding operations include status for one or more buffers used to stored encoded data at the head-end.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the received status include status relating to multiplexing operations performed at the head-end.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the received status include status relating to a particular transport stream transmitted from the head-end.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the received status include bit rates for a plurality of types of data being provided from the head-end.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more remote devices is a pager.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more remote devices is a cellular telephone.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more remote devices is a wireless device.

18. The method of claim 2, wherein the status and messages are forwarded via a standard messaging protocol.

19. A method for monitoring, from a remote location, operation of a head-end in an information distribution system, the method comprising:

receiving information relating to one or more operations performed at the head-end, wherein the received information includes status and indications of possible error conditions relating to the one or more operations;

receiving identities of one or more remote devices designated to receive the information relating to the one or more operations; and

forwarding at least a subset of the received information to the one or more remote devices.

20. A method for remotely monitoring and controlling operation of a head-end in an information distribution system, comprising:

providing to one or more remote devices status relating to one or more operations performed at the head-end;

receiving from a particular remote device one or more response messages; and

adjusting at least one parameter of a particular operation performed at the head-end in accordance with the one or more response messages.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

providing to the one or more remote devices indications of possible error conditions relating to the one or more operations performed at the head-end.